

# AN INTRODUCTION TO BAMBARA

---

The text accompanies the following thirteen audio (13) tracks:

- ML\_Bambara\_Lesson\_1.mp3 (Time: 2:03) (File Size: 1.88 MB)
- ML\_Bambara\_Lesson\_2.mp3 (Time: 1:34) (File Size: 1.44 MB)
- ML\_Bambara\_Lesson\_3.mp3 (Time: 2:03) (File Size: 1.88 MB)
- ML\_Bambara\_Lesson\_4.mp3 (Time: 1:00) (File Size: 952 KB)
- ML\_Bambara\_Lesson\_5.mp3 (Time: 1:34) (File Size: 1.43 MB)
- ML\_Bambara\_Lesson\_6.mp3 (Time: 0:58) (File Size: 916 KB)
- ML\_Bambara\_Lesson\_7.mp3 (Time: 1:12) (File Size: 1.10 MB)
- ML\_Bambara\_Lesson\_8.mp3 (Time: 1:29) (File Size: 1.36 MB)
- ML\_Bambara\_Lesson\_9.mp3 (Time: 1:15) (File Size: 1.16 MB)
- ML\_Bambara\_Lesson\_10.mp3 (Time: 1:30) (File Size: 1.38 MB)
- ML\_Bambara\_Lesson\_11.mp3 (Time: 2:07) (File Size: 1.95 MB)
- ML\_Bambara\_Lesson\_12.mp3 (Time: 1:24) (File Size: 1.29 MB)
- ML\_Bambara\_Lesson\_13.mp3 (Time: 1:02) (File Size: 985 KB)

## Lesson 1: The Alphabet

<b>Bambara alphabet</b>	<b>As in</b>
<b>a</b>	<b>Ah-ha</b>
<b>b</b>	<b>Book</b>
<b>c</b>	<b>Chair</b>
<b>d</b>	<b>Door</b>
<b>e</b>	<b>Day</b>
<b>ε</b>	<b>Met</b>
<b>f</b>	<b>Foot</b>
<b>g</b>	<b>Game</b>
<b>ɗ</b>	<b>Sing</b>
<b>h</b>	<b>Hair</b>
<b>i</b>	<b>Tea</b>
<b>j</b>	<b>Jail</b>

<b>k</b>	<b>Kit</b>
<b>l</b>	<b>Lock</b>
<b>m</b>	<b>Meat</b>
<b>n</b>	<b>Net</b>
<b>ɲ</b>	<b>Onion</b>
<b>o</b>	<b>Soda</b>
<b>ɔ</b>	<b>Long</b>
<b>p</b>	<b>Put</b>
<b>r</b>	<b>River</b>
<b>s</b>	<b>See</b>
<b>Sh</b>	<b>Shame</b>
<b>t</b>	<b>Termite</b>
<b>u</b>	<b>Shoe</b>
<b>w</b>	<b>War</b>
<b>y</b>	<b>Year</b>
<b>z</b>	<b>Zebra</b>

## Lesson 2: Vocabulary 1

<b>n</b>	<b>I</b>
<b>i</b>	<b>You (singular)</b>
<b>a</b>	<b>He or she</b>
<b>an</b>	<b>We</b>
<b>aw</b>	<b>You (plural)</b>
<b>u</b>	<b>They</b>
<b>Sɔɔma</b>	<b>The morning</b>
<b>Sɔɔma/Sɔɔmadafɛ</b>	<b>In the morning</b>
<b>Tile</b>	<b>Noon</b>
<b>Tilefɛ</b>	<b>At noon</b>
<b>Wula</b>	<b>The afternoon</b>
<b>Wulafɛ</b>	<b>In the afternoon</b>
<b>Su</b>	<b>The night</b>
<b>Sufɛ</b>	<b>At night</b>
<b>Daraka</b>	<b>Breakfast</b>
<b>Tilelafana</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>Surɔfana</b>	<b>Dinner</b>
<b>Denbaya</b>	<b>Family</b>
<b>Somɔɔw</b>	<b>Family (lit people of the house)</b>
<b>Muso</b>	<b>Woman or wife</b>
<b>Musow</b>	<b>Women</b>
<b>Cɛ</b>	<b>Man or husband</b>
<b>Cɛw</b>	<b>Men</b>

<b>Den</b>	<b>Child</b>
<b>Denw</b>	<b>Children</b>
<b>Ba</b>	<b>Mother</b>
<b>Fa</b>	<b>Father</b>

### Lesson 3: Greetings

<b>Nba</b>	<b>Reply to a greeting (used only by men)</b>
<b>Nse</b>	<b>Reply to a greeting (used only by women)</b>
<b>I ni sɔɔma</b>	<b>Good morning</b>
<b>Nba, i ni sɔɔma</b>	<b>Good morning (males reply)</b>
<b>Nse, i ni sɔɔma</b>	<b>Good morning (females reply)</b>
<b>I ni wula</b>	<b>Good afternoon</b>
<b>I ni su</b>	<b>Good evening</b>
<b>I ni tile(n)</b>	<b>Good afternoon (from noon until 2 PM)</b>
<b>I ka kɛɛ?</b>	<b>Are you fine?</b>
<b>Tɔɔro tɛ</b>	<b>No problems/trouble</b>
<b>Tɔɔro si tɛ</b>	<b>No problems at all</b>
<b>I fa ka kɛɛ?</b>	<b>Is your father fine?</b>
<b>Tɔɔro t'a la</b>	<b>He is fine</b>
<b>I ba ka kɛɛ?</b>	<b>Is your mother fine?</b>
<b>Tɔɔro t'a la</b>	<b>She is fine</b>
<b>I denw ka kɛɛ?</b>	<b>Are your children fine?</b>
<b>Tɔɔro t'u la</b>	<b>They are fine</b>
<b>Somɔɔw ka kɛɛ?</b>	<b>Is your family fine?</b>
<b>Tɔɔro t'u la</b>	<b>They are fine</b>
<b>Hɛɛ sira?</b>	<b>Was the night peaceful?</b>
<b>Hɛɛ dɔɔn</b>	<b>Peace only</b>
<b>Hɛɛ tilenna?</b>	<b>Was the day peaceful?</b>

<b>Here dɔɔn</b>	<b>Peace only</b>
<b>Bob ka kɛɛ?</b>	<b>Is Bob fine?</b>
<b>Tɔɔ t'a la</b>	<b>He is fine</b>
<b>Jennifer ni Mark ka kɛɛ?</b>	<b>Are Jennifer and Mark fine?</b>
<b>Tɔɔ t'u la</b>	<b>They are fine</b>
<b>I bɛ di?</b>	<b>How are you?</b>
<b>Somɔɔw bɛ di?</b>	<b>How is your family?</b>
<b>I bisimila!</b>	<b>Welcome! (Singular)</b>
<b>Aw bisimila!</b>	<b>Welcome! (Plural)</b>
<b>Saha!</b>	<b>Thanks! (a reply to bisimila)</b>

## Lesson 4: Numbers (1...20)

<b>Kelen</b>	<b>One</b>
<b>Fila</b>	<b>Two</b>
<b>Saba</b>	<b>Three</b>
<b>Naani</b>	<b>Four</b>
<b>Duuru</b>	<b>Five</b>
<b>ƆƆƆ</b>	<b>Six</b>
<b>Wolonfila</b>	<b>Seven</b>
<b>Segin</b>	<b>Eight</b>
<b>ƆƆƆƆƆ</b>	<b>Nine</b>
<b>Tan</b>	<b>Ten</b>
<b>Tan ni kelen</b>	<b>Eleven</b>
<b>Tan ni fila</b>	<b>Twelve</b>
<b>Tan ni saba</b>	<b>Thirteen</b>
<b>Tan ni naani</b>	<b>Fourteen</b>
<b>Tan ni duuru</b>	<b>Fifteen</b>
<b>Tan ni ƆƆƆ</b>	<b>Sixteen</b>
<b>Tan ni wolonfila</b>	<b>Seventeen</b>
<b>Tan ni segin</b>	<b>Eighteen</b>
<b>Tan ni ƆƆƆƆƆ</b>	<b>Nineteen</b>
<b>Mugan</b>	<b>Twenty</b>

## Lesson 5: Introducing Self/Someone

<b>N tɔɔ Bubakar</b>	<b>My name is Bubakar</b>
<b>N jamu Jalo</b>	<b>My last name is Jalo</b>
<b>I tɔɔ?</b>	<b>What's your name?</b>
<b>I jamu?</b>	<b>What's your last name?</b>
<b>N bɛ bɔ Mali la</b>	<b>I am from Mali</b>
<b>N muso bɛ bɔ Mauritanie</b>	<b>My wife is from Mauritania</b>
<b>I bɛ bɔ min?</b>	<b>Where are you from?</b>
<b>I muso bɛ bɔ min?</b>	<b>Where is your wife from?</b>
<b>A bɛ bɔ min?</b>	<b>Where is she or he from?</b>
<b>A tɔɔ Mark</b>	<b>His name is Mark</b>
<b>A jamu Humphrey</b>	<b>His last name is Humphrey</b>
<b>Mark tɛ bɔ Mali la, a bɛ bɔ Ameriki</b>	<b>Mark is not from Mali. He is from America</b>
<b>I bɛ bɔ Ameriki wa?</b>	<b>Are you from the America?</b>
<b>Ayi, n tɛ bɔ Ameriki</b>	<b>No, I am not from the States.</b>
<b>I bɛ bɔ Mali la wa?</b>	<b>Are you from Mali?</b>
<b>ɔwɔ, n bɛ bɔ Mali la</b>	<b>Yes, I am from Mali</b>
<b>N ye karamɔɔ ye</b>	<b>I am a teacher</b>
<b>N muso tɛ karamɔɔ ye</b>	<b>My wife is not a teacher</b>
<b>Mark ye wolɔntɛri ye</b>	<b>Mark is a volunteer</b>
<b>A muso tɛ wolɔntɛri ye</b>	<b>His wife is not a volunteer</b>
<b>Mark muso ye kalanden ye</b>	<b>Mark's wife is a student</b>



## Lesson 6: Leave - Taking Expressions

<b>K'an b'u fo!</b>	<b>Good-bye! (Lit we greet them)</b>
<b>U n'a mɛn</b>	<b>They will hear your greetings</b>
<b>K'an bɛn!</b>	<b>See you!</b>
<b>Ka tile hɛrɛ caya</b>	<b>Have a good day</b>
<b>Ka su hɛrɛ caya</b>	<b>Have a good night</b>
<b>Ka dugu ɲuman jɛ</b>	<b>May we have a good night</b>
<b>K'an kelen kelen wuli</b>	<b>May we have a good night</b>
<b>Amiina!</b>	<b>Amen!</b>
<b>K'an bɛn sɔgɔma</b>	<b>See you in the morning</b>
<b>K'an bɛn wulafɛ</b>	<b>See you in the afternoon</b>
<b>K'an bɛn tilefɛ</b>	<b>See you around noon</b>
<b>K'an bɛn sufɛ</b>	<b>See you in the evening</b>
<b>K'an bɛn sinin</b>	<b>See you tomorrow</b>
<b>K'an bɛn sɔɔni</b>	<b>See you soon</b>
<b>K'an bɛn kɔfɛ</b>	<b>See you later</b>

## Lesson 7: Dialogue

<b>A: I ni sɔgɔma</b>	<b>Good morning!</b>
<b>B: Nse, I ni sɔgɔma</b>	<b>Good morning!</b>
<b>A: I ka kɛnɛ?</b>	<b>Are you fine?</b>
<b>B: Tɔɔɔ si tɛ</b>	<b>No problems at all</b>
<b>A: Somɔgɔw bɛ di?</b>	<b>How is your family?</b>
<b>B: Tɔɔɔ t’u la</b>	<b>They are fine</b>
<b>A: I bisimila!</b>	<b>Welcome!</b>
<b>B: Saha!</b>	<b>Thanks!</b>
<b>A: I tɔgɔ?</b>	<b>What’s your name?</b>
<b>B: N tɔgɔ Mariam. E dun?</b>	<b>My name is Mariam. And you?</b>
<b>A: N tɔgɔ Mamadu</b>	<b>My name is Mamadu</b>
<b>B: I ye karamɔgɔ ye wa?</b>	<b>Are you a teacher?</b>
<b>A: ɔwɔ, n ye “Corps de la Paix” karamɔgɔ ye</b>	<b>Yes, I am a Peace Corps teacher</b>
<b>B: Foli don. N bɛ taa so</b>	<b>I was just greeting. I am going home.</b>
<b>A: Ayiwa, k’an b’u fo</b>	<b>Ok! Good-bye! (we greet them)</b>
<b>B: U n’a mɛn</b>	<b>They will hear your greetings</b>
<b>A: Ka tile hɛrɛ caya</b>	<b>May we have a good day</b>
<b>B: Amiina</b>	<b>Amen</b>

## Lesson 8: Vocabulary 2 (Common Objects)

<b>Tabali</b>	<b>A table</b>
<b>Səsi</b>	<b>A chair</b>
<b>Sigilan</b>	<b>A stool</b>
<b>Biki</b>	<b>A pen</b>
<b>Kiriyon</b>	<b>A pencil</b>
<b>Kaye</b>	<b>A notebook</b>
<b>Liburu</b>	<b>A book</b>
<b>Saki</b>	<b>A bag</b>
<b>Lakere</b>	<b>Chalk</b>
<b>Tabulo</b>	<b>Chalk board</b>
<b>Aseti</b>	<b>A plate</b>
<b>Kutu</b>	<b>A spoon</b>
<b>Muru</b>	<b>A knife</b>
<b>Furalan</b>	<b>A broom</b>
<b>Dilan</b>	<b>A bed</b>
<b>Birifini</b>	<b>A blanket</b>
<b>Dara</b>	<b>A bed sheet</b>
<b>Deben</b>	<b>A mat</b>
<b>Fini</b>	<b>Clothes</b>
<b>Doloki</b>	<b>A shirt</b>
<b>Kulusi</b>	<b>Pants</b>
<b>Sabara</b>	<b>Shoes</b>
<b>Negeso</b>	<b>Bike</b>

<b>Nunɛti</b>	<b>Eye glasses</b>
<b>Ji</b>	<b>Water</b>
<b>Kafe</b>	<b>Coffee</b>
<b>Nɔnɔ</b>	<b>Milk</b>
<b>Sukaro</b>	<b>Sugar</b>
<b>Kɔkɔ</b>	<b>Salt</b>

### **Lesson 9: Vocabulary 3 (Names of Places)**

<b>So</b>	<b>House</b>
<b>Kalanso</b>	<b>Classroom</b>
<b>ŋɛɛn</b>	<b>Toilet</b>
<b>Gwabugu</b>	<b>Kitchen</b>
<b>Dumunikeyɔɔ</b>	<b>Eating area/place</b>
<b>Gwa</b>	<b>Straw roof that you sit under</b>
<b>Lakɔli</b>	<b>School</b>
<b>Dɔɔɔɔɔɔso</b>	<b>Hospital</b>
<b>Sugu</b>	<b>Market</b>
<b>Butiki</b>	<b>Shop</b>
<b>Biro</b>	<b>Office</b>
<b>Baji</b>	<b>River</b>
<b>Kɔɔn</b>	<b>A well</b>
<b>Ponpu</b>	<b>Pump</b>
<b>Nakɔ</b>	<b>Garden</b>
<b>Foro</b>	<b>Field</b>
<b>Baarakeyɔɔ</b>	<b>Working place</b>
<b>Misiri</b>	<b>Mosque</b>
<b>Egilisi</b>	<b>Church</b>
<b>Banki</b>	<b>Bank</b>
<b>Tɛɛn gari</b>	<b>Train station</b>
<b>Abiyon jigin kɛnɛ</b>	<b>Airport</b>

<b>Oto gari</b>	<b>Bus station</b>
<b>Posu</b>	<b>Post office</b>

## Lesson 10: Numbers (20...2000)

<b>Mugan</b>	<b>Twenty</b>
<b>Mugan ni kelen</b>	<b>Twenty-one</b>
<b>Mugan ni fila</b>	<b>Twenty-two</b>
<b>Mugan ni saba</b>	<b>Twenty-three</b>
<b>Mugan ni naani</b>	<b>Twenty-four</b>
<b>Mugan ni duuru</b>	<b>Twenty-five</b>
<b>Mugan ni ƙƙƙ</b>	<b>Twenty-six</b>
<b>Mugan ni wolonfila</b>	<b>Twenty-seven</b>
<b>Mugan ni segin</b>	<b>Twenty-eight</b>
<b>Mugan ni ƙƙƙƙƙ</b>	<b>Twenty-nine</b>
<b>Bi saba</b>	<b>Thirty</b>
<b>Bi saba ni kelen</b>	<b>Thirty-one</b>
<b>Bi naani</b>	<b>Forty</b>
<b>Bi duuru</b>	<b>Fifty</b>
<b>Bi ƙƙƙ</b>	<b>Sixty</b>
<b>Bi wolonfila</b>	<b>Seventy</b>
<b>Bi segin</b>	<b>Eighty</b>
<b>Bi ƙƙƙƙƙ</b>	<b>Ninety</b>
<b>ƙƙƙ</b>	<b>One- hundred</b>
<b>Ƙƙƙ ni bi saba</b>	<b>One hundred thirty</b>
<b>Ƙƙƙ ni bi duuru</b>	<b>One hundred fifty</b>
<b>Ƙƙƙ fila</b>	<b>Two hundred</b>
<b>Ƙƙƙ saba</b>	<b>Three hundred</b>

<b>Kεmε naani</b>	<b>Four hundred</b>
<b>Kεmε duuru</b>	<b>Five hundred</b>
<b>kεmε wɔɔɔ</b>	<b>Six hundred</b>
<b>Wa kelen</b>	<b>One thousand</b>
<b>Wa kelen ni kεmε fila ni bi duuru</b>	<b>One thousand-two hundred and fifty</b>
<b>Wa fila</b>	<b>Two thousand</b>



## Lesson 11: Some Useful Expressions and Phrases

<b>N sɛgɛnnɛn don</b>	<b>I am tired</b>
<b>Sunɔŋɔ bɛ n na</b>	<b>I am sleepy</b>
<b>Kɔŋɔ bɛ n na</b>	<b>I am hungry</b>
<b>Kɔŋɔ tɛ n na</b>	<b>I am not hungry</b>
<b>Minɔŋɔ bɛ n na</b>	<b>I am thirsty</b>
<b>Minɔŋɔ tɛ n na</b>	<b>I am not thirsty</b>
<b>Funteni bɛ</b>	<b>It's hot</b>
<b>Funteni tɛ</b>	<b>It's not hot</b>
<b>Nɛnɛ bɛ</b>	<b>It's cold</b>
<b>Nɛnɛ tɛ</b>	<b>It's not cold</b>
<b>Hakɛto</b>	<b>Excuse me</b>
<b>Hakɛ t'i la</b>	<b>You are excused</b>
<b>I bɛ taa min?</b>	<b>Where are you going?</b>
<b>N bɛ taa so</b>	<b>I am going home</b>
<b>N bɛ taa lakɔli la</b>	<b>I am going to school</b>
<b>Mark bɛ taa biro la</b>	<b>Mark is going to the office</b>
<b>A bɛ taa ɲɛgɛn na</b>	<b>He or she is going to the toilet</b>
<b>N tɛ taa biro la</b>	<b>I don't go to the office</b>
<b>I bɛ Bamanakan fɔ?</b>	<b>Do you speak Bambara?</b>
<b>ɔwɔ, n bɛ Bamanankan fɔ dɔɔni</b>	<b>Yes, I speak Bambara a little bit</b>
<b>Mark tɛ Bamanankoan fɔ</b>	<b>Mark doesn't speak Bambara</b>
<b>N tɛ tubabukan fɛ</b>	<b>I don't like French</b>

<b>N tɛ kafe fɛ</b>	<b>I don't like coffee</b>
<b>Jennifer bɛ Bamanankan fɛ</b>	<b>Jennifer likes Bambara</b>
<b>N bɛ kalanɛ</b>	<b>I study</b>
<b>N bɛ dumunike</b>	<b>I eat</b>
<b>N bɛ baarakɛ</b>	<b>I work</b>
<b>A tɛ kalanɛ</b>	<b>He doesn't study</b>
<b>A tɛ dumunike</b>	<b>He doesn't eat</b>
<b>A tɛ baarakɛ</b>	<b>He doesn't work</b>
<b>N bɛ n ko</b>	<b>I bathe</b>
<b>N tɛ n ko sisan</b>	<b>I don't bathe now</b>
<b>N b'a fɛ ka n lafiɲɛ</b>	<b>I want to rest</b>

## Lesson 12: Family

<b>Fa</b>	<b>Father</b>
<b>Ba</b>	<b>Mother</b>
<b>Bangebaw</b>	<b>Parents</b>
<b>Den</b>	<b>Child</b>
<b>Denw</b>	<b>Children</b>
<b>Denbaya</b>	<b>Family</b>
<b>N ka denbaya</b>	<b>My family</b>
<b>Kɔrɔɔɛ</b>	<b>Elder brother</b>
<b>Kɔrɔmuso</b>	<b>Elder sister</b>
<b>Dɔgɔɔɛ</b>	<b>Younger brother</b>
<b>Dɔgɔmuso</b>	<b>Younger sister</b>
<b>Benke</b>	<b>Uncle</b>
<b>Tɛnɛmuso</b>	<b>Aunt</b>
<b>Balima</b>	<b>Sibling</b>
<b>Mɔke</b>	<b>Grand father</b>
<b>Mɔmuso</b>	<b>Grand mother</b>
<b>Mɔden</b>	<b>Grand child</b>
<b>Mark ye san mugan ni duuru ye</b>	<b>Mark is twenty-five years old</b>
<b>N ye san bi saba ye</b>	<b>I am thirty years old</b>
<b>I ye san joli ye?</b>	<b>How old are you?</b>
<b>Mark sigilen bɛ Gao</b>	<b>Mark is living in Gao</b>
<b>A sigilen tɛ New York</b>	<b>He is not living in New York</b>
<b>Dɔgɔmuso fila bɛ n fɛ</b>	<b>I have two younger sisters</b>

<b>Dɔgɔcɛ tɛ n fɛ</b>	<b>I don't have a younger brother</b>
<b>Kɔrɔmuso bɛ Suzan fɛ</b>	<b>Suzan has an elder sister</b>
<b>Kɔrɔcɛ t'a fɛ</b>	<b>She doesn't have an elder brother</b>

### Lesson 13: Days of the Week and Some Expressions of Time

<b>Tɛnɛn</b>	<b>Monday</b>
<b>Tarata</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>
<b>Araba</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>
<b>Alamisa</b>	<b>Thursday</b>
<b>Juma</b>	<b>Friday</b>
<b>Sibiri</b>	<b>Saturday</b>
<b>Kari</b>	<b>Sunday</b>
<b>Don go don</b>	<b>Every day</b>
<b>Sɔɔma o sɔɔma</b>	<b>Every morning</b>
<b>Wula o wula</b>	<b>Every afternoon</b>
<b>Su o su</b>	<b>Every night</b>
<b>Tɛnɛn o tɛnɛn</b>	<b>Every Monday</b>
<b>Juma o juma</b>	<b>Every Friday</b>
<b>Dɔɔkɔn</b>	<b>Week</b>
<b>Kalo</b>	<b>Month</b>
<b>San</b>	<b>Year</b>
<b>Dɔɔkɔn o dɔɔkɔn</b>	<b>Every week</b>
<b>Kalo o kalo</b>	<b>Every month</b>
<b>San o san</b>	<b>Every year</b>